

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment filed after FINAL rejection is acknowledged. Claims 1-24 and 34-37 have been cancelled. Claims 25-33 and 38 are pending in this application.

Claims 25-33 and 38 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A leukocyte removal filter comprising nonwoven fabric having an average fiber diameter of 0.3 to 3.0 μm , and a formation index y of 50 or less calculated for a nonwoven fabric having a thickness of 0.3 mm is both novel and unobvious over the prior art of record. Not all non-woven fabric having a thickness of 0.3 mm inherently has a formation index y less than 50, and must be calculated utilizing the formula of instant application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Claims 25-33 and 38 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JULIE HA whose telephone number is (571)272-5982. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang can be reached on 571-272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Julie Ha/
Examiner, Art Unit 1654

/Cecilia Tsang/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1654